

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

2011-2012

ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the Chairman

It is truly a pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission. Serving in this capacity has taught me how to navigate with mix views and come up with an agreeable compromise for the betterment of our community. This year I have organized the commission into committees to tackle some of the toughest issues. Some of which were dealing with budget for the MDCYC and continuity.

It is my hope to leave this commission better than I found it, so that we may be able to truly serve as advocates for the youth at county hall. Next year, I hope to lead this commission in engaging in more community events, hold town hall meetings, provide input in all youth related events offered by the county and more.

I would like to thank my outgoing Vice-chairman, Peter Ramon for his diligence in aiding me this commission cycle and members of the JSD staff for being there with me in our most tense moments. I wish all of my outgoing commissioners success in their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jude Bruno
Chairman

Letter from the Vice-Chairman

Two years ago when the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission was founded many of us were not really sure what to expect. Many of the Youth Commissioners had some experience with local government, while others did not. The Youth Commission was a newborn, full of unlimited potential, opening its eyes to local government for the first time. The newly founded Miami-Dade County Youth Commission had no local model to emulate, only a list of goals to achieve.

Some of these goals came quickly. Youth Commissioners began to actively participate in county affairs. Youth Commissioners examined legislation, examined issues affecting the youth, participated in other youth organizations, and fulfilled other goals and responsibilities given to the Youth Commission.

Other goals have required more time and organization. The Youth Commission recently adapted its own set of bylaws. Similarly under the leadership of Chairman Bruno, the Commission organized itself into eight committees. Both actions will allow the Youth Commission to reach out and affect more issues in the upcoming year.

Overall the Youth Commission, though young, is quickly growing into a powerful force for the youth of Miami-Dade County. Between the increased organization and the increased experience level of the individual commissioners, I expect to see great things come out of the commission in the near future.

Sincerely,

Peter Ramon
Vice-Chairman



Letter from the JSD Director

June 7, 2012

The Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD) is truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with some of the most outstanding young people, not just within our County, but in the United States of America. Through their tireless work on the Youth Commission, these young people have demonstrated a true commitment and dedication to youth related issues in our community. Their collective voice will have a substantial impact on the future children and families in Miami-Dade County.

The JSD will continue to support this Youth Commission and their successors in this incredible endeavor which is already making a difference in the lives of many Miami-Dade County youth.

Sincerely,

Morris Copeland, CPM
Director
Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department

Letter from the JSD Liaison

June 12, 2012

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as staff to the Miami-Dade Youth Commission these past two years. When plans were underway to create a Youth Commission that would bring the voice of Miami-Dade County's youth to County Hall, our Department, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services, was a logical choice to carry forth this mission. I am very grateful to have been selected to be a part of this initiative as I have learned so much from working with these youth who are a true reflection of Miami-Dade County's population and our promise for tomorrow.

During the past two years, these young people have accomplished great things individually and as a Commission. With each year that passes the Youth Commission develops and becomes better and more cohesive. I will miss the graduating Youth Commissioners, but I look forward to another productive year with next year's Youth Commissioners as their voices really do matter!

Sincerely,

Special Projects Coordinator, JSD
Jeannette Garcia

2011 - 2012 Miami-Dade County Youth Commission**District 1**

Marica Daniels

Miami Carol City Senior High School

Leon Fussell

Miami Central Senior High School

District 2

Jude Bruno

Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School

District 3

Clarence Moore, III*

Young Men's Preparatory Academy

Jennise Smalls

Miami Central Senior High School

District 4

Lina Rojas

Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Sr. High School BBC

Jacob Stern

Ransom Everglades School

District 5

Daniela Salinas*

Miami Senior High School

Arielle Derival

Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School

District 6

Cesar Castillo

Miami Springs Senior High School

Raveena Patel*

iPreparatory Academy

District 7

Emily Freeman

Home Schooled

Ashley Sanchez

MAST Academy

District 8

Giancarlo Casiano

John A. Ferguson Senior High School

Christopher Fisk Kolychkin

Miami Palmetto Senior High School

District 9

Anyssa Chebbi

Coral Reef Senior High School

Ambar Mesa

Coral Reef Senior High School

District 10

Brenda Abreu-Molnar

Terra Environmental Research Institute

Gabiella Diez*

Archbishop Coleman Carroll Senior High School

District 11

Cynthia Larroque

G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School

Alexa Verite *

Archbishop Coleman Carroll Senior High School

District 12

Alejandro Moreno*

Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School

Peter Ramon*

Belen Jesuit Preparatory School

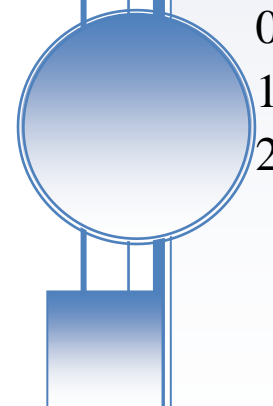
District 13

Michael Berrios*

Westland Hialeah Senior High School

Stephanie Gastelu

American Senior High School



Ex- Officio Appointments**Miami-Dade County Mayor**

Michael Ivory North Miami Senior High School

Miami-Dade Commission Chair

Stephanie Pardinaz Liuzzi G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School

Miami-Dade County Clerk of the BCC

Daniel Tirado Miami Beach Senior High School

Agenda Coordinator

Liljuan Gonzalez William H. Turner Technical Arts High School

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board of Education

Annette Valero* Miami Senior High School

**Graduating Senior*

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

History of MDCYC

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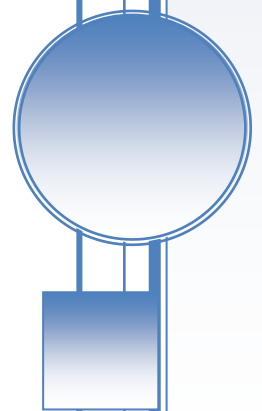
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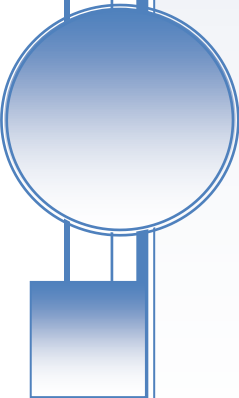
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The Miami-Dade County Youth Commission was created by County Ordinance in 2011 as part of the vision of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, District 1. Its purpose is to provide young people with a vehicle to participate in the process of county government. Motivated students from each Commission district represent and articulate the needs of youth in Miami-Dade and advise the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners on matters affecting the youth population.

Through the collaborative efforts of Miami-Dade governmental officials and departments, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and other community supporters, the Youth Commission is a positive model for young people. Officials hear firsthand what concerned teens have to say, have the opportunity to educate them about the governmental process, and create a symbiotic relationship between youth and County.

The Miami-Dade County Youth Commission consists of twenty-six youth commissioners and four ex-officio commission members. Each Youth Commissioner is appointed to the Youth Commission by their respective county commissioner. These Youth Commissioners are handpicked by county commissioners through an interview and selection process in which the best-suited youth are selected to serve on the Miami-Dade Youth Commission. These Youth Commissioners provide a voice in the county government for the youth, the non-voting citizens of the county who are affected by the decisions of the elected officials.





Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Office of The Mayor report for 2011-2012

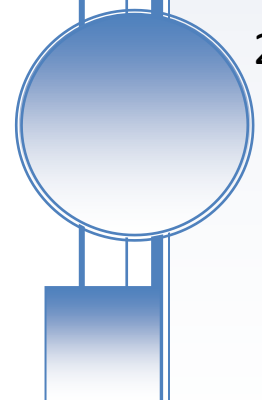
As a representative of the Mayor's Office, Michael Ivory is in the process of building a Youth Advisory Board that will correspond with the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission within his school. This will allow the Commission to gain a more thorough and "insider" view into the daily lives and concerns of the youth that it represents. What's more, Michael personally participates in activities to aid in the youth within his community. He occasionally aids his church in feeding the homeless and needy, among which, sadly, are many youth. Also, as part of the mentorship program within the organization known as the '100 Black Men of South Florida', he packs thanksgiving dinners for the less fortunate and takes an underprivileged youth on a Charismas Shopping Spree along with his fellow mentees. Michael also tutors classmates and friends on occasion. Michael is honored to represent the Mayor's Office on the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission as he is fully aware that Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez has made the welfare and well-being of Miami-Dade County's youth one of his priorities.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District One report for 2011-2012

District 1 is a teen's utopia or well that is how Commissioner Jordan makes us feel. In fact, she is not only a role model but is also regarded as a mother figure by everyone in her community. Commissioner Jordan extends her warmth to the youth in the community and has become a reliable source the youth can run to whenever in need. She listens to their concerns and acts on them in a timely manner.

One of her main goals is to inspire the youth in a way that would change one's perspective about life; giving them all the basic necessities needed to survive in the real world. Commissioner Jordan has sponsored countless events, workshops, seminars, and community service in which the youth have an opportunity to engage in the event or volunteer and gain community service hours. Some of the youth-oriented achievements accomplished by Commissioner Jordan include establishing the Violence Intervention Program or VIP, creating the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, and co-sponsoring a bill with Commission Heyman to ban the sale of candy flavored tobacco. Commissioner Jordan has provided continued support to the Miami-Dade Youth Commission through her Legislative Aide, Rochelle Borland, who regularly attends the meetings.

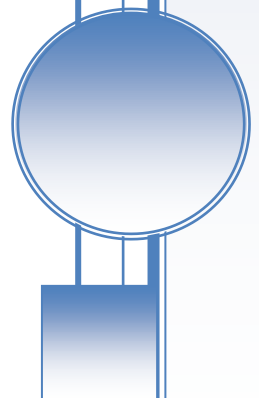


Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Two report for 2011-2012

Under the leadership of Commissioner Monestime, District 2 organized several events for the youth. Most recently was a Haitian History Bee where Miami-Dade County Public School students showcase their knowledge about the rich cultural legacy of Haiti during the first-ever Haitian Heritage Cultural Month History Bee. Like many other county commissioners, Monestime organized a number of free movie nights in collaboration with the county's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department in the parks of district 2. In January when people were writing their new year resolutions, Commissioner Monestime rang in the new year opening a high quality soccer facility that would motivate children in the Oak Grove neighborhood to be more physically active and healthy, as the sport is predominantly popular in the area.

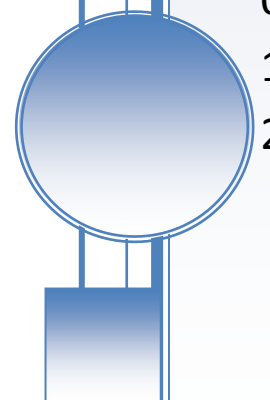
While Commissioner Monestime focused on bringing attention to parks for the youth and making sure they have access to quality ones. Youth Commissioner Jude Bruno has focused on bringing the schools of district 2 together to be designated as No Place for Hate Schools in the 2012-2013 school year by the Florida Anti-Defamation League. Youth Commissioner Jude Bruno created a district advisory council to aide in this regard. Plans are in motion to create a No Place for Hate Day for the district and conduct workshops with student leaders from the respective schools in the district to become designated as a No Place for Hate School. The goal in mind is for the entire City of North Miami, Florida and perhaps the entire district, to become a Community of Respect, according to the standards set by the Florida Anti-Defamation League, similar to the City of Aventura, Florida.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Three report for 2011-2012

District 3 Youth Commissioners Clarence Moore, III and Jennise Smalls have followed in the footsteps of their appointing Commissioner Audrey Edmonson and have been very involved within their community. District 3 Youth Commissioners have facilitated multiple summits discussing various issues/topics that concerned the community, including the Trayvon Martin case, Voting Registration, Teen Pregnancy, Gang Violence, Drug Usage/Exposure. The District 3 Youth Commissioners have also partnered with different Organizations such as the NAACP Miami-Dade Youth Council, Advancement Project, Girls' Initiative, and Religious Structures. District 3 Youth Commissioners also have participated in Voter Registration Drives being that this is election year and over 500,000 unregistered youth reached the legal voting age. The Youth Commissioners have also been a constructive part in organizing and participating in several demonstrations within the community. So as you can see the Miami-Dade County District 3 Youth Commissioners have been on the ball. This is our Voice!



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Four report for 2011-2012

“Commissioner Sally A. Heyman donated 5 foot tall plush teddy bears to the public schools in District 4. “With less funding available to our schools, this donation will allow the PTA/PTSA’s to raise money to continue to offer support for programs that will benefit the students and their learning environment,” said Commissioner Heyman. She has been an inspiration for our community as she strives to create a youth orientated District.

Commissioner Sally Heyman worked alongside Mayor Carlos Gimenez to build a new, state of the art library and educational center in Aventura to replace the old one which was destroyed in Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The state of the art library and educational center contains many tools and resources the youth of district four as well as Dade County can use.

Commissioner Sally Heyman Co-Prime sponsored a bill to ban the sale of flavored tobacco throughout the county in an effort to prevent teenagers from harming their own health.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Five report for 2011-2012

Under the leadership of Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, District Five, has been dedicated to assist in providing funding for youth events and youth programs. District five also has supported the Miami Children's Museum and youth mentoring programs, such as, Take Stock in Children.

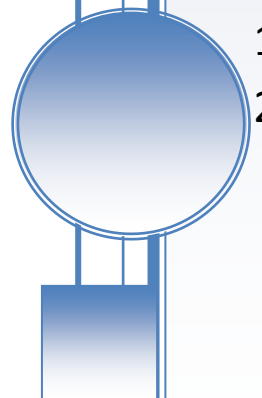
Commissioner Barreiro has been instrumental in other legislations that even though they are not geared specifically toward the youth, they may also impact them such as: the People's Transportation Plan (which provides for funding our transportation system in Miami-Dade County), Golden Passport (transportation pass for elderly and disabled), and the construction of the Hispanic library in District 5.

Moreover, District five participated in the "Creation of Youth Crime Task Force", whose purpose is to study the problems of youth crime and youth gun violence in Miami-Dade, analyze possible solutions to these problems, and develop an overall countywide plan for the prevention of youth crime and youth gun violence in Miami- Dade. Youth's participation is important to our district, therefore, "Unidad Youth Civic Involvement Conference In-kind" was as well supported. This provided funding to assist organization (Unidad) to hold Youth Civic Conference to identify the importance of community involvement and strengthen civic awareness among local youths. In addition, the safety of our youth is important too, the support to the "Camille Merilus of the Camille", which provided funding for a foundation that established a youth center to create a safe haven for children and teenagers after school. This allows youth to be sound, and parents to be ensured that their community protects its children.

Finally, District five supported the resolution "School Readiness Grant Program", urging the Florida Legislature not to make proposed funding reductions for the School Readiness grant program.

Much effort has been put forth by District five and its leader, Commissioner Barreiro to support, help, and maintain the stability, safety, and future of our youth.

Small change by small change is what makes a huge difference!



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Six report for 2011-2012

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With the assistance and leadership of the honorable Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, District 6 has achieved new heights in the quality of life for its youth. Furthermore, Commissioner Sosa has proudly stood for the right that youth have to be heard in Miami-Dade County government.

On Wednesday April 11, 2012, Commissioner Sosa held the “The State of Youth in Miami-Dade County West Forum” in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Economic Advisory Trust (MDEAT) at the Rebeca Sosa Theater in the Miami Springs Community Center. Youth from the cities of Coral Gables, Hialeah, Miami, Miami Springs, and West Miami and the rest of the county attended this event, including members of Teen Court. Personally invited by Commissioner Sosa were the current two District 6 Youth Commissioners: Cesar Castillo and Raveena Patel, who both proudly attended the event and represent Commissioner Sosa and the youth of District 6. At this event, a variety of topics concerning youth were discussed such as employment, public schools, and county programs. When voicing their concerns, a record was taken and the featured panelists both proffered their own opinion and took these into consideration as part of their respective professions (e.g. M-DCPS Police Chief Hurley spoke on violence within public schools). The open discourse allowed the youth in attendance to express their concerns and bring forth issues that affect their future. The event was covered by the newspaper “River Cities Gazette” (a sub-division of the Herald).

On Tuesday May 1, 2012, Commissioner Sosa recognized Flagami Elementary student Carlos A. Perez for having won the fourth annual “Every Drop Counts” Poster Contest representing District 6. The contest is sponsored by the County’s Water and Sewer Department to educate children on water conservation.

On Tuesday May 1, 2012, Commissioner Sosa and her colleagues on the Miami-Dade County Commission recognized the organization Citizens’ Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County in making sure that the children and community of Miami-Dade County are safe, and also proclaiming “Stop the Violence and Anti-Bullying Week”.

On May 14, 2012, Commissioner Sosa publicly invited girls of ages 11 to 16 on her Facebook page to register for the “GEM” Summer Arts Camp, at the Women’s Park, 10251 Flagler Street, which will be held from June 18-August 17, 2012, between 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday. Class space is limited. To register, constituents would have to call (305) 480-1717.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Six report for 2011-2012

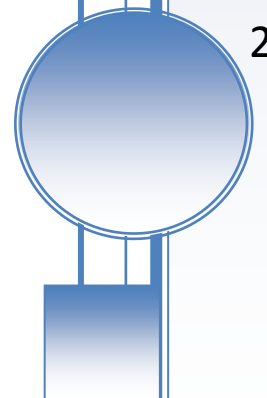
On Tuesday May 15, 2012, Commissioner Sosa and fellow District 6 Miami Heat fans gathered to proudly support hometown heroes for the “White Hot Heat Rally”. The pep rally was their way of congratulating the Miami Heat for their first round victory of the 2012 NBA Eastern Conference Playoffs.

Commissioner Sosa further acknowledges that having strong family bonds can affect the development of a youth’s overall character. Thus on Saturday May 19, 2012, Commissioner Sosa held a free movie night at Cooper Park where families in the community enjoyed quality time.

District 6 is further known for supporting the cause against missing children as Commissioner Sosa was a co-sponsor for a resolution proposed by District Twelve (12) Commissioner Jose Pepe Diaz urging the state of Florida and Congress to propose a law to make it a felony to not report a child within 24/48 hours. On May 25, 2012, Youth Commissioner Cesar Castillo attended an event in representation of District 6 at the City of Hialeah Gardens City Hall to state his concerns with missing children and spoke on behalf of the youth of District 6 on the importance of locating and rehabilitating missing and exploited children, and about his interest in working together with the local organization, "Missing Children Global Network Inc." to reduce missing children cases in our county, as well as locating missing children and potentially saving lives. Approximately 200 people were in attendance to hear his speech including Hialeah Gardens Mayor Yosiet de la Cruz and City of Hialeah Council President Isis Garcia who all supported the cause and Youth Commissioner Castillo.

On Tuesday June 5, 2012 Commissioner Sosa honored four eighth graders and their teacher Ms. Terry Alexander from All Angels Academy in Miami Springs for winning first place in the Florida History Fair for their performance of “When We Were Men” about the impact of the changes in women’s social roles during World War II era. The students were one of only two groups of students that have earned the opportunity to represent the State of Florida in the National History Day competition in Washington, DC.

On Thursday June 7, 2012, a school supplies drive was conducted by District 6 Youth Commissioner Cesar Castillo at Miami Springs Senior High School in collaboration with the Miami Springs Anchor Club where several materials were collected for homeless children in Miami-Dade County.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Six report 2011-2012

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade has launched the "Swim for Jenny Memorial Fund." Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, private citizens, and corporate donors generously contributed funds to provide a limited number of swimming lesson scholarships that will be given out this summer to eligible children from Miami-Dade. The "Swim for Jenny Memorial Fund" was created in honor of Jenny Hong Nguyen, a 12-year-old South Florida girl who drowned in April 2011 after going into water too deep for her limited swimming ability. Registration begins on Monday, June 11, 2012

On May 31, 2012, Commissioner Sosa invited the public on her Facebook page to an evening of lasers, lights, stars and more as part of the Miami Science Museum's "Fabulous First Friday" held on June 1, 2012. The Miami Science presented laser shows on family-oriented "Pop", best of the Beatles, Bob Marley, Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon, and Midnight Bob Marley.

District 6 has been known as an area concerned with the health of its citizens with Commissioner Sosa holding a flu vaccination last year and many positive things the District 6 youth are doing to keep health a top priority. To highlight one of these cases is the "Stroke Awareness Team". The Stroke Awareness Team is a HOSA Community awareness Team from Miami Springs Senior High in District 6. The Stroke Awareness Team is currently in its second operating year, and during its first year became a district finalist in Regional HOSA. It went on to represent Miami Springs and Miami-Dade at the state level. In its second year, the Stroke Awareness Team got 1st place in the Region and top 3 in the state setting this community awareness team apart to represent the State of Florida at the National HOSA Convention this June and will compete at the National Level.

The Stroke Awareness Team started collaborating with one of the world's most renowned Medical Research organizations, The Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories (MMRL for short) which has taken the team to the national Level. Last December, the team was featured on The Miami MAHI Shrine Magazine, Recently featured on the Florida Mason newspaper, mentioned in the "River Cities Gazette" newspaper and will be mentioned on future MMRL medical Publications. This team represents the youth in district 6, which comes to show that they are concerned for our county's health.

During the 2011-2012 year, our district has been dedicated to improving the lives of the youth of District 6 with the promise that the next operating year we will soar to even more magnanimous standards.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Seven report for 2011-2012

Since appointment onto the Miami-Dade County Youth Commissioners for District 7, Ashley Sanchez and Emily Freeman have been able to greatly impact our community. This past year, in addition to attending meetings of the MDCYC, Emily Freeman and Ashley Sanchez have been helping within the school system and with the homeless youth of our county. Ashley as Vice-Chairman of the commission committee on Public Education and Service created maps which show all of the public high schools within each Miami-Dade County district. Youth Commissioners now have easy access to communicate with the schools in their district so that the Commission can get more projects started and help our county even more. In addition to this, Youth Commissioner Freeman collected over 200 toiletry items and new school supplies from organizations such as Staples, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Country Inn & Suites, as well as received a \$100 gift card to purchase such items from Publix. All to contribute to the Homeless Youth Project, in order to provide the Homeless Youth of their community with the needed items that they currently do not have.

Not only have Emily and Ashley been very involved in regards to the youth of their County, their respective County Commissioner, Xavier Suarez has sponsored many programs for youth this past year, and has many goals he hopes to accomplish for the upcoming year. Commissioner Suarez has been working with several groups and sources to implement a rather significant summer jobs program for their youth and plans to concentrate on this in the immediate future.

Between the two youth commissioners, they have 5 goals in mind for the upcoming 2012-2013 year. As District 7 Youth Commissioners, they hope to speak as the voice of the youth in our county, help the youth of our county to succeed in school, discourage and raise awareness of the violence and crime within Miami-Dade County, to encourage the youth and to help out in the community, and finally, to teach the youth more about how local government is run and encourage them to get involved. In order to pursue these goals, Emily and Ashley have come up with some ideas on projects they hope to accomplish in the upcoming year. They hope to provide free SAT and ACT tutoring to students as this is not already available in order for these students to do better in high school and go on to college. They also want to have multiple community service opportunities such as beach clean ups, clothing, toiletries, and canned food drives in order to aid our community and encourage the youth to become involved in county efforts. Encourage more students to become involved in Teen Court programs so that students can learn about the amount of crime in our community and prevent more from occurring; and finally, to hold Youth Commission Town Hall meetings within their district in order to hear what the youth believe to be issues in our community and so that they can learn how county government runs.

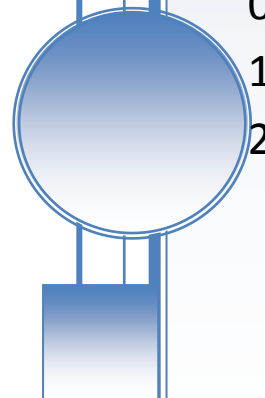
They hope to be able to help our community and county again next year, even more than they have this past year.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Eight report for 2011-2012

The Miami-Dade County Youth Commissioners for District 8, serving in the 2011-2012 year include Christopher Fisk Kolychkin from Miami Palmetto Senior High School and Giancarlo Casiano from John A. Ferguson Senior High School. These representatives have been extremely active in spreading the voice of Miami-Dade's youth on the Commission and out in the community. These District 8 Youth Commissioners have sat on the Social Responsibilities Committee of the Commission, served on the board of their school's student governments as well as the District's Student Government Association, they have also served on various advisory boards throughout the county (i.e. Village of Pinecrest), and they have even been active members of international youth leadership organizations such as HOBY. In addition, the Youth Commissioners of District 8 have become engaged in everything from coaching little league baseball, interning at the Think Factory, becoming a part of the CLEO Institute's Youth Task Force, and so much more. Youth Commissioners Christopher and Giancarlo have not only proudly communicated the voice of the youth they represent, but have personally showcased their standard of excellence.

These two Youth Commissioners and the youth of District 8 have also had the pleasure of witnessing the extraordinary efforts and accomplishments made within and beyond their district by Commissioner Lynda Bell this year. Commissioner Bell has championed community engagement with her Thanksgiving Food Giveaway, Halloween Family Movie Night, the installation of a 3-1-1 Service Center, Hop with a Cop Easter Egg Hunt, Back-to-School Back-Pack Giveaway, a monthly "Work Days" program, a Leisure Lakes Park playground dedication, her tribute to a late local teen Samantha Jade Trebbi, and her very proactive stance with regards to climate, energy, and environmental issues. Youth Commissioner Christopher Fisk Kolychkin and Youth Commissioner Giancarlo Casiano have made the voice of the youth of District 8 and the youth of Miami-Dade County clearly heard, while also learning a thing or two about the inner workings of our local government.

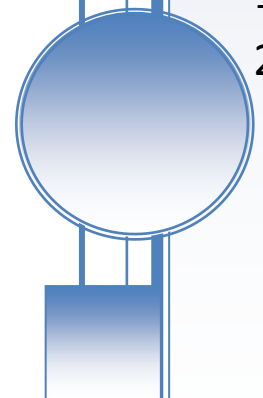


Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Nine report for 2011-2012

Under the leadership of Commissioner Dennis Moss, District Nine sponsored the Moss Plan which targeted neglected neighborhoods in South Dade that had been damaged by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. As part of this program, Commissioner Moss played a central role in the construction of a pool in the Sergeant Joe Delancy in July 2011. Commissioner Moss has also offered the opportunity for small business owners to apply for the Mom and Pop Small Business Program for the third year in a row as of January of 2012, a program that provides funding and technical assistance to eligible small business owners. Commissioner Moss chairs the Community Image Advisory Board for the county. This board organizes events such as the Clean Up and Green Up poster contest which is now in its eighth year, the winners of which Commissioner Moss congratulated this past May, Commissioner Moss is also the Chairman of the Zoo Oversight Board, which is a board committed to the continuous improvement of the zoo. Mr. Moss has sponsored a resolution urging the banning of the importation of the Burmese Python without a permit which has been responded to with plans to do just that by the Federal Government. In November 2011, Commissioner Moss distributed turkeys to families and organizations in District 9 for Thanksgiving.

The Commissioners of District Nine are always finding innovative ways to keep the citizens involved in making a difference in their community. In May of 2012 Commissioner Anyssa Chebbi came up with the idea of the Homeless Youth Project where schools all over Miami-Dade County would hold hygiene drives in order to collect items for the homeless students in our county. With the aid of fellow District 9 Commissioner Ambar Mesa, who also attends Coral Reef Senior High School, the school alone managed to collect just over 530 items. District nine has used this past year in order to create a more habitable place for its citizens, both adult and youth.

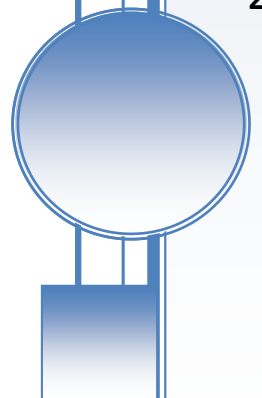


Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Ten report for 2011-2012

The Miami-Dade County Youth Commissioners for District 10 for the 2011-2012 year include Brenda Abreu Molnar from TERRA Environmental Research Institute and Gabriella Diez from Archbishop Coleman Carroll Senior High School. These representatives have contributed to the group's efforts in making the voices of the Miami-Dade County youth heard by participating in youth-oriented events, such as The Children's Trust Talent Show; contributing to the enhancement of public communication with the creation of the Youth Commission's Newsletter; and assembling all media for the Youth Commission. Members of this district have also advocated in the campaign to help the homeless and have conducted hygiene and school supply drives in their schools. They have also educated their fellow students on the true nature of homelessness and the changing demographics of the homeless.

Youth Commissioner Abreu Molnar and Youth Commissioner Diez have also been proud witnesses to the accomplishments made by Commissioner Javier D. Souto and within their district. Among these accomplishments are the development of the Bikes on Metrorail and Bikes on Buses programs, the development of the Social and Economic Development Council, the initiation of an "Adopt-A-Road" program, and the obtainment of the first street sweeper trucks to clean areas in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County. The Youth Commissioners have also observed several of Commissioner Souto's sponsorships, such as those supporting improved lighting in public areas after sunset, standardized "No Littering" signs, and the Responsible Property Owner and Merchant Act. Youth Commissioner Abreu Molnar has also personally met with Commissioner Souto in order to legally change a street name in District 10. The official codesignation of SW 80th Terrace from TERRA Environmental Research Institute to SW 114th street as Wolves Way will take place in the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. The Youth Commissioners from District 10 have proudly represented their area, continue to voice the concerns of the youth in their area, educate their peers on district-wide issues, and learn the basics of local government.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Eleven report for 2011-2012

District 11 has been a harbinger of youth-related initiatives. District 11 Commissioner Joe A. Martinez has a special place in his heart for the youth, encouraging them to develop into independent, righteous, and involved citizens. To do so he has sponsored several programs to help aid kids in their development.

First and foremost he has improved the safety of the children within the community in order to give them a chance to develop. With programs such as South Florida After-School All-Stars, a non-profit organization that helps keep children safe and helps them succeed, and the Waste-Watch Anti-Crime Program, which utilizes waste-management personnel to report criminal activities in order to promote safe neighborhoods. Similarly he has promoted legislation that has helped teens stay healthy and away from situations that could potentially damage their health, such as an ordinance banning synthetic marijuana and legislation keeping injured athletes off the field, as well as sponsoring health and safety expos.

However, his goal to keep the children safe has not prevented him from keeping them entertained. He has frequently sponsored fun festivals for the residents of his district. Besides his holiday festivals and food distributions, he also hosts movie nights at local parks and recently arranged a Summer Fun Expo.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Twelve report for 2011-2012

District twelve, under the leadership of Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz, has worked hard to make the lives of the youth in Miami-Dade County safer. Last year Commissioner Diaz partnered with the Kristi House to help prevent sex trafficking. This year he sponsored legislature to have MIA and Port of Miami trained to spot victims of human trafficking. Recently fifty (50) employees of MIA were trained to spot and aid children that are being trafficked for sexual exploitation. Employees of Port of Miami and the Miami-Dade Police Department were also in attendance for the training session. MIA is the first airline to receive this kind of training. Commissioner Diaz also sponsored a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to pass laws that strengthened already existence Florida laws related to sex trafficking and human trafficking. Commissioner Diaz also advocated for Caylee's law, which requires parents to notify the police if their twelve (12) year old or younger children are missing for more than forty-eight (48) hours (Caylee's law was passed on April 3rd, 2012). These efforts all hope to make Miami-Dade County a safer place for youth to live.

District twelve also hosted many events to better the lives of the children within the community. The Stephen P. Clark center, in response to a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Diaz in 2009, hosted an installation for Autism Awareness Month. This installation raised awareness about autism. While there is no cure for autism, this installation hopes to educate people on what autism is and what community resources are available. To this end, a basketball clinic for children with autism was led by Youth Commissioner Peter Ramon and hosted by Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, a district 12 high school.

District twelve events also targeted other issues, such as kids getting behind on their vaccinations by hosting free vaccination events. These free vaccination events were administered by health-care professionals from the Miami-Dade County Healthcare Department. Events such as these allowed students from two months to eighteen years of age to obtain the necessary vaccinations before the beginning of the school year.

Similarly Commissioner Diaz hosted an event that gave away free school supplies to over two-hundred kids. The school supplies given out helped the district twelve students start off their school year with the necessary materials they needed.

Youth Commission Alejandro Moreno sponsored a resolution in support of this School, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High in District 12

District twelve has utilized the past year to improve both the safety and livelihoods of the youth living within it.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District Thirteen report for 2011-2012

Commissioner Esteban Bovo, Jr. cares deeply for the youth in Miami-Dade; recently he presented 2,000 dollars to fund a YMCA summer day camp in district 13. The funds will go towards a camp that focuses on youth orientated activities and safety. Commissioner Bovo has also encouraged residents to attend Health Fairs within his district. These health Fairs focus on many preventative care issues and increasing exercise and the practices of a healthier diet. This impacts our youth because even in Miami-Dade County obesity is a major health concern with youth. To this effect, Commissioner Stephanie Gastelu serves as Captain in American Senior High's JROTC which involves extensive physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. Youth Commissioner Gastelu is proud to represent Commissioner Bovo for her district as they both share a vision of a healthier and more productive Miami-Dade County.

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Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Tentative Calendar of Events for 2011-2012

August 2012:

Thursday 16: Organizational Meeting of MDCYC

Thursday 16: Sign an MOU w/respective organizations, agencies and groups to better educate youth to become more civically engaged in 2012-2013.

September 2012:

Thursday 20: Regular Meeting of MDCYC

September 14: Announce essay contest in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month *"What is the youth perspective of the importance of celebrating the Hispanic Culture?"* Contest will run from Sept. 14 thru Oct. 9

September 17: Announce contest to recognize the Constitution of the United States of America. The youth of the community would be able to submit a video, essay or poem on the following questions *"How has the constitution impacted the youth?"* Contest would run from Sept 17 thru Sept 23.

September 26: MDCYC will hold Youth Commission Town Hall meetings throughout the county.

October 2012:

October 18: Regular Meeting of the MDCYC

October 1: Announce a contest to recognize how the Italian American Culture has impacted Miami-Dade County.

Saturday 13: MDCYC will host a workshop for youth on Fire Prevention.

October 26: MDCYC will conduct demonstration for elementary students on how to behave on a school bus in honor of National School Bus Safety Week.

October 26: MDCYC will conduct workshops for both elementary and middle school students to encourage their peers to be drug free in honor of Red Ribbon Week.

November 2012:

November 15: *Regular Meeting of the MDCYC*

November 21: MDCYC will participate in feeding the homeless of Miami-Dade County.

November 28: MDCYC will unveil a plan to educate the youth of Miami-Dade on the effects of HIV/Aids in recognition of World Aids Day.

November 2012:

December 13: *Regular Meeting of the MDCYC*

January 2013:

January 17: *Regular Meeting of the MDCYC*

January 21: MDCYC will participate in National MLK Day of Service

February 2013:

February 21: *Regular Meeting of the MDCYC*

February 1: Announce contest to recognize the contribution African-Americans have made in Miami-Dade County in honor of African-American History Month. Youth would be able to submit a response to the following question *"How has African-American Impacted Miami-Dade County?"* With a video, essay, original poem or an original song.

February 1: MDCYC would sponsor a Blood drive involving youth.

February 1: MDCYC will announce the event called *"It ought to be a county ordinance or state law"* contest for the youth of Miami-Dade County. This would be a televised event that would take place before the First Day of the Florida Legislative Session.

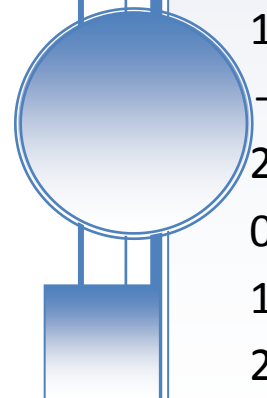
February 21: MDCYC will urge the BCC to include legislative priorities that relate to youth highlighted by the MDCYC Committee on Advocacy and Legislation.

March 2013:

March 21: *Regular Meeting of the MDCYC*

March 21: MDCYC would hold a forum in honor of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the theme *"How has racial discrimination impacted youth?"*

March 23:	MDCYC would hold a workshop for the youth in honor of the National Poison Awareness Week.
March 26:	MDCYC would hold a forum in honor of Women's History Month.
March 27:	MDCYC would have an event to encourage students in the Miami-Dade County Public School System to do well on all state standardized tests.
April 2013:	
April 18:	<i>Regular Meeting of the MDCYC</i>
April 13:	MDCYC would organize an event in honor of National Library Week.
April 27:	MDCYC would organize a student leadership conference.
May 2013:	
May 16:	<i>Regular Meeting of the MDCYC</i>
May 1:	MDCYC would organize an event that would involve all schools with Law magnets to be engaged with colleges/universities with a Law School.
May 2:	MDCYC would announce a series of contests in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage, Haitian Heritage Month and Caribbean-American Heritage Month (JUNE).
May 11:	MDCYC would organize a bike ride in honor of National Bike Month.
May 30:	MDCYC would organize an event centered around recognizing those that died serving our country. This event would be geared towards families while also spreading the message of summer safety during National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.
June 2013:	
June 20:	<i>Regular Meeting of the MDCYC</i> <i>(May be canceled due to the summer recess and moved to June 13 for the annual televised meeting of the MDCYC)</i>
June 10:	MDCYC would hold a workshop for the youth on how to be safe and prepare during the Hurricane Season.
July 2013:	MDCYC WILL NOT HAVE A SCHEDULED MEETING
August 2013:	MDCYC WILL HOST A TALENT SHOWCASE TO IN HONOR OF THE LAST FEW DAYS OF SUMMER
August 15:	Organizational Meeting of the MDCYC



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Suggested Major Events for 2012-2013

Talent Show:

It is the goal of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission to be able to produce a Talent Showcase for the youth of the county. The projected cost is indicated in the projected budget for the commission. The purpose of the showcase is to display the rich culture Miami is known to have from the youth perspective. And this is a tentative outline of what the Youth Commission has discussed.

Talent Show Case 2013
"For Kids by Kids"

Project Date: Summer of 2013.

Secondary Date: Fall of 2013

- The talent show case will last approximately 2 hours.
- Tickets: \$5.00 (Pre-Sale)
\$7.00 (At the door)
- Ages: 9-17.

Participants will be divided into the following groups according to their age:

9-11 (group one)

12-14 (group two)

15-17 (group three)

All Participants will bring their own props, equipment, costumes, etc.

- Theme: International
- Location: Pending
- Categories:
 1. Dance (Maximum time is 4 minutes)
 2. Vocal (Maximum time is 4 minutes)
 3. Poetry (Maximum time is 2 minutes)
 4. Acting/ Comedy (Maximum time is 7 minutes)
 5. Instrumental (Maximum time is 4 minutes)
 6. Groups

18 acts- 3 per category

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Commission accomplishments for 2011-2012

Newsletter:

The Miami-Dade County Youth Commission Newsletter is a recent development of the group, created in order to enhance communication with the community and to publicize the individual and collective actions of the MDCYC. This project was initiated by the group's Chairman, Jude Bruno, and has since been run and operated by the MDCYC Historian, and Public Relations, Marketing and Communication Committee Chairwoman, Brenda Abreu Molnar (District 10); and the Public Relations, Marketing and Communication Committee Vice-Chairwoman, Ambar Mesa (District 9). The first MDCYC Newsletter is projected to be released in the summer of 2012, after being revised and reviewed by the Executive Board and the Youth Commission as a whole. The Newsletter consists of differing components. Among them are individual sections dedicated to each district. This information is provided by each Youth Commissioner and includes information about the Youth Commissioners of that district, details on events taking place within that district, and any monumental information or announcements that must be released to the general public. The Newsletters will also include announcements and articles on the Youth Commission as a whole, calendars with countywide events, and special acknowledgments. The Newsletters will be distributed on a seasonal basis and will be given to individuals included on a distribution email list. Projected individuals who will receive the Newsletter include the County Commissioners, Principals of schools within the county, and any individuals who sign up to receive it. The approximate format of the inaugural Newsletter is as follows:

- Information on the MDCYC website

- Calendar of Summer 2012 events

- Information on each district and Youth Commissioner (approximately one page per district, including photos)

- A special farewell to graduating seniors and seniors on the Youth Commission

- Contact information.

This project requires no funding and is environmentally friendly, seeing as how it is Internet and email-based. The Newsletter will be easily accessed by the public through the Internet and through a link on MDCYC website. Most importantly, the Newsletter will contribute to the Youth Commission's campaign in bringing to light the positive actions that are made by the youth in our society.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Commission accomplishments for 2011-2012

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2**Website:**

Beginning in 2012 the MDCYC collaborated with Creative Projects for Youth (CPY) a mentoring program that renders our senior high students more desirable to top universities and design programs nationwide through real-world experiences that build portfolios. CPY's goal is to nurture the talent of creative undeserved Title I schools in Miami-Dade County. Through that partnership, on February 16, the commission launched its website www.mdcyc.org. The goal of the site is to build our standing in the community and develop a different venue for the Youth Commission. CPY is led by Rene Barge but the actual site was designed by youth, which is the audience the commission is serving.

Please see appendix ___ for pictures of the site

Bylaws:

Bylaws were first proposed by ex-Chairwoman Natalie Roberts in the 2010-2011 Youth Commission, and sent to the Bylaws subcommittee to be written. While the bylaws were finished in the 2010-2011 Youth Commission year, they were not voted on until the 2011-2012 Commission year. At the start of the 2011-2012 Commission year, Vice-Chairman Peter Ramon was tasked with rewriting the bylaws. After being rewritten, the bylaws were then taken to Committee as a Whole. After further amendments were passed, the bylaws were officially approved on Thursday, December 15th, 2011 at 5:17 PM.

Please see appendix ___ for a copy of the bylaws

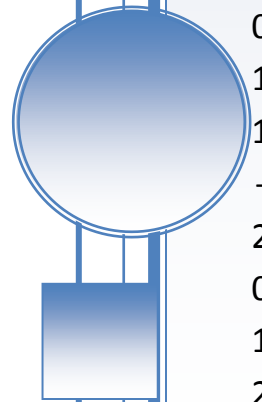
Miami-Dade County Youth Commission Facebook Page:

The commission successfully launched a Facebook page for the youth of Miami-Dade County to join. The page will be linked on the commission website and displayed on all flyers to promote the commission. The link to the commission page is as follows:

<https://www.facebook.com/MDCYC>

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission Twitter Page:

The commission was able to create a twitter account to better communicate with the youth of the county. To follow the commission simply search for us by using the following tag: @MDCYouth



Youth Commission Budget Impact Statement

Travel

One of the main objectives of the Miami-Dade Youth Commission is to teach the youth about government so that they can play a part in the decision making process of our community, state and nation. Similarly, the Youth Commission exists to give youth a voice in the community about issues that relate to them. Therefore, a trip to Tallahassee during the *Rally to Tally* would allow members of the Youth Commission to both voice their concerns and learn about state government at the same time.

Meetings

The Youth Commission meetings are over two hours in duration and are generally scheduled at 4:00 PM on school days. This permits little time for most students to obtain refreshments prior to meetings. In order to encourage the timely arrival of Youth Commissioners, snacks and water will be provided.

Community

The Youth Commission would like to host events in order to send messages to the youth of Miami-Dade County. During these events the Youth Commission could highlight legislation that affects the youth and host forums on youth-related issues, involving the youth of Miami-Dade County in local and state government. In order to make the events successful, the Youth Commission would need to secure a venue, obtain refreshments, provide entertainment for those attending as well as provide all the materials necessary to raise awareness about youth related issues and solutions to them. The Youth Commission would also like to be able to provide grants to non-profit organizations that affect the Youth, in order to monitor organizations that affect the Youth and encourage their continued involvement.

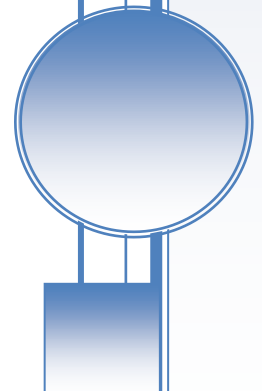
Advertisements

The Youth Commission is responsible for fostering increased youth involvement in the affairs of County government and hold forums for the youth, both of which require advertisements to inform the youth. Advertisements could include such things as commercial ads, leaflets, brochures, and a website.

Supplies

Supplies would include items necessary to function. It would allow the Youth Commission to obtain binders, portfolios, business cards, Youth Commission shirts, nametags, and stationary.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission Proposed Budget		
Travel		\$3,300.00
Meetings		\$360.00
Community		\$40,000.00
Events	\$30,000.00	
Grants	\$10,000.00	
Advertisements		
Commercial Ad	\$10,000.00	
Photo Album	\$340.00	
Brochures	\$2,000.00	
Supplies		\$4,000.00
Total		\$60,000.00



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Guest Speakers for 2011-2012

This commission cycle we had the following guest speakers attending a MDCYC meeting for the following reasons:

***Rochelle Boreland, Legislative Aide, District 1**

Ms. Boreland, has been a regular attendee at the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission meetings providing regular feedback, updates, and technical assistance-Ms. Boreland has played an integral role in the Commission's continued success.

***Jose Otero and Erick Sanchez from Miami-Dade GIC/Government Information Systems:**

These two county employees attended an MDCYC meeting at the request of Jeanette Garcia to answer questions in regard to the development of the website for the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission.

***Cynthia Johnson-Stacks and Estephania Resnick from Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office:**

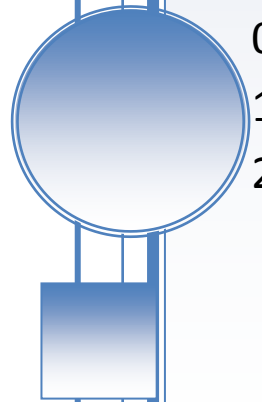
Attended February's meeting of the MDCYC to answer questions on the ordinance that created the commission and give us a brief review as to the functions of the commission. Members of the commission asked questions ranging from fundraising parameters for the commission and the possibility of extending term-limits of commission members. They also provided insight on how to conduct meetings in the near future.

***Robert A. Thompson from the Miami-Dade County Commission on Public Trust and Ethics**

Mr. Thompson attended a meeting of the MDCYC at the request of commission chairman Jude Bruno to conduct a training on ethics for commission members as mandated by the county for all County Advisory Board Ethics Training.

***Bobbie Ibarra from the Miami Coalition for Homeless**

Ms. Ibarra attended a MDCYC meeting to ask a series of questions in regards to youth who are homeless in the county. She also provided the Youth Commission with an array of statistics and information on homeless youth in the county.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Guest Speakers for 2011-2012

***Waine Foote zone 10 chairmen of the Masonic medical research laboratory.**

Mr. Foote attended an MDCYC meeting, invited by chairman of the health sub-committee and Youth Commissioner, Cesar Castillo; to discuss the growing health related issues within the community, and what a local initiative called the 'Stroke Awareness Team' is doing to combat these health issues.

***President Armando Perez, of Missing Children Global Network Inc.**

Mr. Perez attended an MDCYC meeting as a representative. Missing Children Global Network Inc. Is a not for profit organization centered around youth, and Mr. Perez attended to simply introduce himself and the organization with the hopes of collaboration in the near future with the MDCYC; to gain a better understanding of the youth in local area.

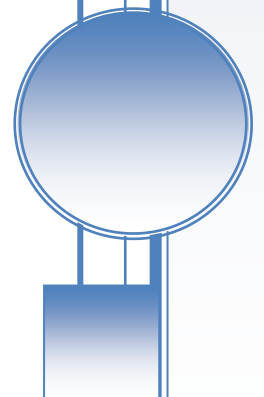
***City of Hialeah Youth Advisory Council**

The City of Hialeah Youth Advisory Council came to an MDCYC meeting to observe and learn how we operate. They learned techniques and skills and how we as a committee operated as a whole. And took notes on the concerns of the youth as well as parliamentary procedure.

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Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Partnerships and Collaborations for 2011-2012

I Speak My Peace:

“I Speak My Peace” is a program initiated by Superintendent Alberto Carvalo of Miami-Dade County Public Schools in efforts to reduce school violence and make sure that our schools are a safe environment where children can learn without the worry that they will be victimized by other kids. The way that he planned on achieving his goal was by asking schools to send one-three student ambassadors that will be representing their school at “I Speak My Peace” trainings where they would meet every Saturday for five weeks in preparation for a presentation that all students would be conducted in their school simultaneously. The Youth commission became involved because many of the commissioners became student ambassadors for their school and wanted to be a part in making a difference. This also provided an opportunity for them to serve as VIP ambassadors. “I Speak My Peace” started a bully box in each school, and school violence has slowly but surely been becoming a thing of the past. “I Speak My Peace” assemblies ensure that the school is an accepting environment, where being respectful is the cool thing to do.

Several Youth Commissioners including Youth Commissioner Cesar Castillo, Lina Rojas, Peter Ramon, Stephanie Pardinis Liuzzi, and Daniel Tirado attended the trainings conduct by Isabel Duncan of the Mental Health and Crisis Management Services of the Division of Student Services of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Violence intervention program (VIP):

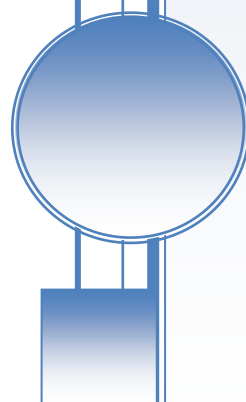
The Violence Intervention Project (VIP) is implemented by the Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department (JSD) to increase public awareness and understanding of the youth violence problem in Miami-Dade County. VIP’s goal is to make youth aware of the services and resources available to them to build productive lives- their ‘real choice’. To support these efforts, VIP engages residents, business and civic organizations to provide program support as well. Miami-Dade County Youth Commissioners serve as VIP ambassadors in their schools and their districts spreading the non-violence message.

The Children Trust:

(Young Talent Big Dreams)

Immediately after the first meeting, the Youth Commission decided they wanted to host an event where youth within the county would be able to showcase their talents. Little did they know that this was already taking place as every year the Children’s Trust devotes several months to recruiting and showcasing talented youth throughout Miami-Dade County. After inviting Ms. Emily Cardenas from the Children’s Trust to tell us a little more about “Young Talent Big Dreams” and what it takes to put on a county-wide talent show we soon realized that due to limited resources and time, the Youth Commission would be unable to coordinate a talent show this year.

Ms. Cardenas invited the Youth Commission to co-MC the talent show and aid in hosting it. Two commissioners would be sent out to both the semi-finals and then the finals to help Mr. Earl Maulding host part of the show. Youth Commissioners Lina Rojas and Christopher Fisk attended and helped host the Semi-Finals. For the Finals, Commissioners Ambar Mesa and Brenda Abreu Molnar attended and co-hosted and introduced the judges for the evening. All of the Youth Commissioners that had the opportunity to attend can testify to the fact that the experience was quite enlightening and they are proud to be a part of the talented youth that come from Miami-Dade County.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Initiatives for 2011-2012

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2**No Place for Hate:**

The No Place for Hate program is sponsored by the Florida Anti-Defamation League. No Place for Hate® was developed to organize schools to work together and develop projects that enhance the appreciation of diversity and foster harmony amongst diverse groups. The campaign empowers schools to promote respect for individual and group differences while challenging prejudice and bigotry. It will be the goal of the commission to aid the Florida Anti-Defamation League in getting more schools to be designated as No Place for Hate schools during the 2012-2013 school year. Several youth commissioners will kick-off this initiative in their respective districts this coming school year by conducting town hall meetings.

Homeless Youth Project:

The Homeless Youth Project was a project that was approved by the Miami Dade Youth Commission at their April meeting after being proposed by District 9 Commissioner Anyssa Chebbi. Through this project, several schools including Coral Reef Senior, Miami High, TERRA, and Miami Springs collected hygiene and school supply items for homeless students in Miami Dade. Commissioner Emily Freeman also collected items through company donations instead of through a school. The project this year collected more than 800 items for students in Miami Dade. These items were collected by the Homeless Student District of Miami Dade County Public Schools and are scheduled for distribution by them as well. Over 4,500 students had been identified as homeless in the 2010-2011 school year and this project was done in hopes of giving these students a chance to succeed in school despite their disadvantages. Next year, the Commission hopes that this project will expand to every commissioner's school, if not to every school in Miami Dade County. We would also like to recognize Commissioners Chebbi, Mesa, Castillo, Freeman, Salinas and Abreu for spearheading this project in their respective schools.

Creating a Youth Program on the County's Government Access Channel:

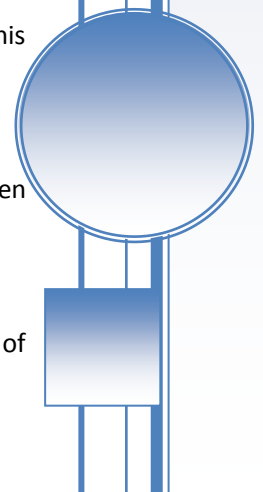
This upcoming commission cycle the MDCYC will begin trying to create a youth program on the county's government access channel to inform the youth on issues that affect them. The commission will arrange a series of meetings with the county Government Information Center, Miami-Dade College and Florida International University to see if we can pull resources together to create such a program. This would expose the commission to reaching a new audience and much more.

Further Collaboration with Miami-Dade County Teen Court:

The commission will be looking at ways to further collaborate with the Miami-Dade County Teen Court.

Increasing youth involvement with the Children's Trust:

The commission will be looking at ways to increase youth involvement in the governing board of the Children Trust's this upcoming commission cycle.



Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Resolutions for 2011-2012

A Resolution in Support of Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School

Whereas, The educational integrity and safety of Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School has been brought into question by the *Doral News Newspaper* in its article "Reagan/Doral High School ... A Bluff?" by recent allegations which claim that the school is home to a rampant drug trade, and a violent gang presence, and said allegations even question the school's academic achievement; and

Whereas, The Administration of the school works in tandem with Miami-Dade County Public School Police and the Doral Police Department to deal with any and all security and safety issues immediately and in a manner befitting the Code of Student Conduct, as it their duty; and

Whereas, Since the publication of this article the school's parents and student body have refuted it's that the claims that the school's Administration turns a blind eye to any of the issues stated in these allegations, and organizations such Parent Teacher Student Association and the Student Government Association of Reagan/Doral Senior High have led the efforts to protect the school's hard-earned reputation; and

Whereas, the school's Representative to the School Board, Renier Diaz de la Portilla, has issued a public statement defending the reputation of the school; and

Whereas, Reagan/Doral has been designated an "A" school every year, consecutively since its opening and is home to this year's Silver Knight winner in the category of English, several top in the USA and World student awards by the University of Cambridge International Examinations Academy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Youth Commission here assembled that: The Youth Commission urges that the School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools an investigation as to the drug abuse and trafficking, and gang presence within Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School be mounted in order to identify what, if any, problem areas need to be improved upon report to the Youth Commission within 30 days of passage of this resolution; and be it

Further Resolved That all schools within the Miami-Dade County Public School System work towards the betterment of their local communities and the education of their students so that they may become integrated members of a global society.

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Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Individual Accomplishments for 2011-2012

District 1

Over the course of the past year Commissioner Marica Daniels was crowned the 1st runner up Miss. Miami Carol City High School as well as being a Harvard Prize Book Recipient.

District 2

Commissioner Jude Bruno was elected State President for the Florida Public Service Association. FPSA is a high school based club for students who are involved in the studies of Criminal Justice, Teacher Assisting and/or Firefighter Assisting. The Organization was founded in 1990 to assist teachers and students studying in these career fields to expand the knowledge of their chosen fields by competing against others from around the state. In addition to being elected to serve as the Student Advisor to the School Board of Miami-Dade County Fla, representing over 345, 000 students and interests. He was subsequently reelected to serve his fourth and last term as SGA President at Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School, selected as a Finalist of the 2012 United Way's Outstanding Youth Award and reappointed to serve as the chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Council of PTA/PTSA Student Involvement Committee and was also awarded the organizations' Emerging Leader Award this past May.

District 3

Jennise Smalls is a 17 year old junior attending Miami Central Senior High School. Jennise is very involved in the school's athletic program. She is a part of the varsity girls' basketball team and serves as a role model to many of her teammates. Jennise has helped organize various communitywide youth related forums.

District 5

Commissioner Daniela Salinas will be graduating with honors from Miami Senior High School. Her hard work during her high school years has led her to receive awards such as the "Award of Excellence" from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Superintendent, the Physics Award, the Literature Award, Foreign Language Award and the Excalibur Award. As well, she was honored to receive the "Mary Joe Battle MacDonald Scholarship."

District 6

Commissioner Cesar Castillo was elected Oleeta West Dade Demolay chapter Master Councilor, Co-Founder of "The Stroke Awareness Team" a Community Awareness team that competed and became a state HOSA finalist, going on to National level. He is also an Executive Member of Missing Children Global Network Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to finding and helping missing and exploited children. As well, he is a representative of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories, a world renowned cardiac research institute.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Individual Accomplishments for 2011-2012

District 7

This year Commissioner Emily Freeman served as Miami-Dade County 4-H President, 4-H State Executive Board member, Secretary of the MDC 4-H Association and District 13 4-H Mock Legislature Committee Co-Chair which presides over Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. For the 2012-2013 year she have been elected Miami-Dade County 4-H Vice President, District 13 4-H (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties) President, and a 4-H State Executive Board member. The awards that she has received since last summer are: 2nd Place at State-wide 4-H Public Speaking Competition, the Chris Allen Award for Outstanding Lobbyist at 4-H State Legislature, and the Silver Clover award for Outstanding Community Service. She was also awarded the Discus Award \$2,500 scholarship.

District 8

Commissioner Giancarlo Casiano is active in sports and is a baseball player for the Ferguson Sr. baseball team. He also contributes his time coaching youth 7 and under and T-ball players in the community on how to play the game of baseball. Some of his accomplishments are that he gave youngsters the experience they need to move forward in the sport of baseball. As a youth commissioner he hopes to learn lots of new things as well as have the chance to help youth in Miami-Dade.

District 9

Commissioner Ambar Mesa attends Coral Reef Senior High School as a student in the International Baccalaureate Program. Her love of learning and education has led her to pursue 9 Advanced Placement Courses, 8 International Baccalaureate Courses, and 4 Dual Enrollment-College Courses. She was recognized with the AP Scholar with Honor Award for her excellence in the AP Examinations. Commissioner Mesa is an active member of The Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee where she was recently chosen to be Corresponding Secretary for the 2012-2013 year as well as being honored with a Service Award. Her love for community service and civic engagement has led her to accumulate over 700 hours of community service since her freshman year of high school. Her goal before she graduates is to surpass the 1000 mark. She is a member of her school's National Honor Society as well as Spanish National Honor Society where she holds the position of Secretary. She was recently interviewed and selected to become a mentor at a student-funded and student-run non-profit, Leading Miami, where she will have the opportunity to provide workshop for middle-school students on leadership skills.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Individual Accomplishments for 2011-2012

District 9

Commissioner Anyssa Chebbi attends Coral Reef Senior High School as student in the International Baccalaureate Program where she has attained a 3.5 un-weighted average. So far in her high school career she has received a 191 on her PSAT as well as a score of 5 on both her AP World History and AP French Language examinations. Commissioner Chebbi began to participate in "Walk to Cure Diabetes" in 2008 and in 2012 raised a total of \$692 for diabetes. She has been elected class president both for her sophomore and junior year as well as recently being elected for the position of vice-president of the Model United Nations club at her school. One of her proudest accomplishments thus far is starting up the Homeless Youth Project where she has involved many schools in Miami-Dade County in hygiene drives to collect items for homeless students around the county.

District 10

Commissioner Brenda Abreu Molnar has served as the Student Government President for two years in a row at TERRA Environmental Research Institute. She served as the Vice-President of the National Honor Society Chapter at her school and is the newly elected President of the National Honor Society. She has received numerous awards and acclamations, including the Leadership Award, Principal's Award, Outstanding Science Student Award, and Outstanding Math Student Award, while maintaining a 4.0 unweighted GPA. She plays libero for her Varsity Volleyball team and is an active member of Mu Alpha Theta. Her greatest honor is being elected as a Miami-Dade Youth Commissioner and she has served as the Youth Commission's Historian for two years.

District 11

Commissioner Larroque was appointed secretary of the Youth Against Domestic Violence a Non-Profit Organization. She has collected school supplies throughout the community, and distributed them to ChildNet, an adoption, foster care, and child service center, organized more than 300 Halloween goodie bags, and distributed them to the Women in Distress shelter, donated over 1,000 food cans to the Women in Distress and ChildNet families, collected over 500 books for the grand opening of the library at the Women in Distress shelter, 1,000 toys for the holidays, and evenly distributed them to the Women in Distress, ChildNet, and North Miami shelters. She also help plan the Fourth Annual Youth Against Domestic Violence Picnic to help raise awareness in our community. She has received awards for being an outstanding Liaison in the Cambridge Global Studies Academy at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School and lastly received a certificate of recognition for her participation in the Spanish Honor society.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission
Individual Accomplishments for 2011-2012

District 12

Commissioner Alejandro Moreno has had the honor of being elected as Ronald W. Reagan Senior High School's Class President for three consecutive terms since 2009. He has won numerous awards such as the Principal's Pride Award and the Four Year Varsity Award for Swimming. He was chosen to be the Silver Knight Nominee in Social Sciences for his school as well as receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Paul Bell Medal of Excellence. He takes great pride in being an Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America as well as an Honoree of the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood.

Commissioner Peter Ramon, this year's Vice-Chairman of the Youth Commission, is the President and Founder of his school's Statistics Club as well as the Captain of the Fencing Club. He is the Vice-President of Athletes for Charity and further demonstrates his advocacy of social responsibility as Autism Basketball Clinic Manager. He is a member of his school's National Honor Society as well as of the Mu Alpha Theta Chapter. In addition to graduating Summa Cum Laude, he has won awards such as the Matteo Ricci Award for Computer Science, Belen Jesuit Outstanding Service Award, Benjamin R. Matza Award, eighteen other academic awards and represented his school as the Silver Knight Nominee for Social Science this year.

District 13

Commissioner Gastelu has accomplished many things this past year. She is currently enlisted in the JROTC program for American Senior High School with the current rank of Captain. Also she has been awarded with the certificate of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Commissioner Gastelu has many rolls as a student. For example, she is an officer for her chorus. She believes that her biggest accomplishment as a student has been to become a youth commissioner for her district.

Clerk of Courts

Our very own Clerk of Courts, Daniel Tirado, volunteers as an orchestra conductor as well as tutors in math and other academic subjects. He maintains a 3.9 unweighted average as well as a 5.2 weighted average due to the rigorous curriculum and courses he takes as part of being an International Baccalaureate student. He is involved in cross country as well as the orchestra and participates in several academic societies such as the Phi Beta Chi, Quill and Scroll, English Honor Society Secretary, Spanish Honor Society Treasurer and Scuba Club Treasurer.

Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

Individual Accomplishments for 2011-2012

Agenda Coordinator

This past year, The Youth Commission's Agenda Coordinator Liljuan Gonzalez and his Black History Bowl team managed to defeat about 33 out of the 34 schools and won second place at the Miami-Dade Black History Bowl. As well, he has completed and earned an entire year's worth of college credits. He successfully helped to restart the National Honor Society chapter at his school as well as being elected this year's president. He managed to win most outstanding student in AP Language and composition and highest GPA in the Public Service academy at William Turner Tech Senior High School. He was also elected as the president of Florida Public Service Association for the upcoming year. Liljuan also serves on the Mimi Children's Magic Zone Youth Advisory Council.

School Board Liaison

School Board Liaison Annette Valero is very involved in her school as the English Honor Society President, Interact Vice-President, Thespians Secretary and Committee Leader, Science Honor Society Secretary and various other school clubs. A lot of her community service includes volunteering for Jungle Island, Ronald McDonald House, Baynanza, and several community walks. She was selected to represent Miami Senior High School in the Silver Knight Category of Drama, as well as being presented into the Miami Senior High School Hall of Fame. She has received many honors in her high school drama career as well as plenty of academic awards such as the Carmen C. Quintero Award and is graduating Magna Cum Laude.

BCC Chairperson Liaison

BCC chairperson liaison Stephanie Paradinas is humbled to have been elected to become an officer of four honor societies at her school G. Holmes Braddock. These positions include becoming the treasurer of her Spanish National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, and Science National Honor Society, as well as the Secretary of SECME. Also, she has received an Award for AICE Spanish for having the highest grade in the class and an award for being the Cambridge Liaison, which is a student chosen to represent the Cambridge Magnet Program at her high school. She also received an award from her Assistant Principal for her hard work and dedication in getting ready for "I Speak My Peace." As well, she received a Medal for her hard work and dedication this year as an officer for the Spanish National Honor Society.

This Annual Report was prepared
by the Miami-Dade County
Youth Commission